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Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda
Assessment of implementation of the Convention
Capacity-building

Assessment of the implementation of the Convention: capacity-building

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the synthesis and preliminary analysis of information submitted by affected and developed country Parties and other reporting entities for the reporting period 2012–2013 on operational objective 4 of The Strategy: capacity-building. It analyses the consolidated performance indicator for this objective from a global and regional perspective. More detailed statistical information at subregional level can be found in the annex.

The document offers some conclusions and recommendations on the status of activities relating to capacity-building for consideration by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, and on the need to adjust, streamline and strengthen activities with a view to achievement of the target relating to this objective.

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I. Introduction

1. This document is a synthesis and preliminary analysis of information submitted by Parties and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on operational objective 4 (OO 4) of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy): capacity-building.

2. For performance indicator CONS-O-13, which is the only indicator pertaining to this operational objective (see chapter II below), a section on global analysis discusses the state of affairs relating to that performance indicator from a global perspective as well as linking information submitted in 2014 with that of 2010, thereby providing a trend analysis on the basis of the global target established for this indicator.[1] The analysis is based on information provided by both affected country Parties and developed country Parties. More detailed information is provided in the adjacent sections on regional analysis for affected country Parties.

3. General conclusions on the status of activities relating to OO 4 are presented at the end of the document. Some recommendations for consideration by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) have been drawn up on the need to adjust, streamline and strengthen activities with a view to achievement of the objectives of The Strategy. The CRIC may wish to provide actionable guidance to Parties and other stakeholders on further steps to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention, as well as recommendations to the Convention's institutions on priorities to be included in their programme of work and budget for the following programming biennium, to be put forward to the Conference of the Parties (COP) for its consideration.

II. Performance indicator CONS-O-13: number of countries engaged in building capacity to combat desertification/land degradation and drought

A. Global analysis

1. Level of achievement of the global target; trends and expectations

4. A global target was set for this indicator of 90 per cent of the affected country Parties implementing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects.

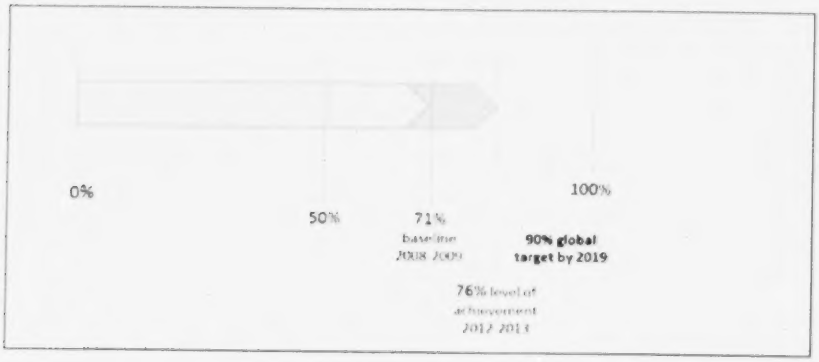
5. In 2008–2009, the level of achievement of this indicator was 71 per cent (baseline).

6. In the 2014 reporting exercise (referring to the period 2012–2013), 120 affected country Parties reported implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects. If the answer from one country which provided information on implementing capacity-building initiatives in the previous reporting exercise is also taken into account, then 121 countries have capacity-building plans or programmes/projects in place, which represents 76 per cent of the threshold.

[1] The trend analysis is based on a sample of reports that were submitted by Parties in both 2010 and 2014. The sample may vary for each indicator depending on whether or not a particular question elicited responses from Parties. The trend therefore measures progress made against the baseline established using data submitted regarding the 2008–2009 biennium.

7. In addition, 37 countries reported that they had plans to implement such programmes/projects by 2019, which makes achieving the target set by Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) even more likely by the end of The Strategy.

Figure 1
Level of achievement of the global target



2. Assessment of capacity-building needs

8. The majority of affected country Parties (71 per cent[2]) assessed their capacity-building needs while 29 per cent[3] did not. This confirms the high importance that affected country Parties are attributing to DLDD-related capacity-building activities.

9. Only one out of 159 affected country Parties which submitted a national report did not provide an answer on DLDD-specific capacity-building plans based on the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA). Fifty-nine per cent[4] implement such plans/programmes/projects based on the NCSA; 41 per cent[5] do not.

10. However, all reporting countries answered the question relating to the implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans based on other methodologies and instruments. Sixty-four per cent[6] have such initiatives in place, 36 per cent[7] do not. The higher number of affected countries which implement initiatives based on other methodologies and instruments corresponds with the higher number of developed country Parties which support them. This confirms the analysis undertaken at the eleventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 11) where similar results were recorded.

3. Technical and financial assistance to support capacity-building

11. Sixty-seven[8] per cent of affected country Parties received assistance in building capacities to combat DLDD in the reporting period; this percentage would increase if we took into consideration that 12 affected country Parties which reported this information are

[2] 113 out of the 159 that responded to the question.
[3] 46 countries.
[4] 94 countries.
[5] 64 countries.
[6] 102 countries.
[7] 57 countries.
[8] 106 countries.

not eligible to receive assistance under the Convention. It is interesting to note that these countries received quite balanced forms of support (bilateral, multilateral, from the GEF, from the Global Mechanism (GM) and from the secretariat): 28 countries received all five types of support, 22 countries received four types of support, 24 countries received three types of support, 16 countries received two types of support and 16 countries received one type of support.

12. Fifty-five per cent of developed country Parties responded to the question; of these, the great majority (88 per cent[a]) supported DLDD-specific capacity-building plans and programmes that were based on methodologies and instruments other than NCSA.

13. The data provided by nine developed country Parties show that they supported 218 capacity-building initiatives in 75 affected country Parties. Four developed country Parties supported 12 subregions, six developed country Parties supported 10 regions and five developed country Parties stated that they provided support to capacity-building initiatives worldwide.

14. Developed country Parties were asked whether they had plans for providing support to one or more affected country Parties/subregions/regions for the implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans, programmes or projects. Out of the fourteen countries which answered this question, ten replied that they would provide such support to affected country Parties in the coming years, while the others did not plan to provide such support.

15. The GEF also provided support to both types of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects. Through its GEF-5 cross-cutting capacity-building programme, it supported 21 affected countries (five in Africa, 12 in Asia, four in Latin America and the Caribbean) and one subregion (Pacific). The GEF, as well as other multilateral organizations, were the most active in providing such support. They supported more than half of the countries which submitted their reports in this reporting cycle.

16. The United Nations Development Programme supported the implementation of both, DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects on the NCSA basis as well as DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects on other methodologies and instruments to assess the capacity-building needs. The relevant work included, among others, 46 medium-sized projects in least developed countries and small island developing states (the list of countries was not provided).

[a] 15 countries.

B. Regional analysis

Figure 2
Level of achievement by region

1. Africa

17. Out of 53 African countries which answered the question on the implementation of capacity-building initiatives in 2014, 40 countries implemented at least one DLDD-specific capacity-building plan or programme/project. Taking future plans into account, the target could be reached by the end of 2018.

2. Asia

18. Out of 47 Asian countries, 35 were engaged in building capacity to combat DLDD. Of the remaining six countries, none responded to the relevant question in either of the reporting cycles 2008–2009 and 2010–2011. With seven countries indicating their intention to implement the capacity-building initiatives in the coming biennium, there is a very good chance that the 90 per cent mark will be reached by 2015.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean

19. Twenty-two Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries reported at least one capacity-building initiative between 2012 and 2013. Additionally, one country provided a number of capacity-building initiatives in the previous cycle. Seven countries plan to have such initiatives in place; if these plans are fulfilled, the threshold could be reached by the end of 2018.

4. Northern Mediterranean

20. Eight Northern Mediterranean (NMED) countries implemented capacity-building plans or programmes/projects. Since two countries have plans to implement such initiatives in the next biennium, the target could be achieved by 2015.

5. Central and Eastern Europe

21. Fourteen Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries reported on capacity-building initiatives. The CEE region has, therefore, already achieved the target.

6. Other affected country Parties

22. One affected country Party not belonging to an implementation annex has reported that capacity-building activities undertaken include components that deal with DLDD, although none of these activities was specifically dedicated to DLDD.

III. Conclusions

23. Currently, the level of implementation of capacity-building initiatives remains high: three out of four affected country Parties have at least one dedicated plan, programme or project in place.

24. An increase of five per cent has been recorded from the baseline. However, with the exception of CEE, where the global target has already been achieved, the threshold will not be reached before the end of The Strategy in Africa or in LAC.

25. The majority of affected country Parties assessed their capacity-building needs and most of them received support in this respect. This support was provided from more than one source, and in the vast majority of cases it was not just financial, but technical as well.

26. It is evident that both the affected country Parties and the international community attach high importance to building capacities on DLDD in affected country Parties. It seems clear, however, that forms of capacity-building assessment other than NCSA receive considerably more attention from developed country Parties. In order to reach the target set by the UNCCD, a more coordinated approach is needed in order to ensure that financial and technical aid reaches those countries that so far are lagging behind.

IV. Recommendations

27. The following are preliminary recommendations which may be considered by Parties at CRIC 13, with a view to initiating early consultations on draft decisions to be forwarded to COP 12 for consideration:

(a) Developed country Parties and international organizations, including those of the United Nations system and the GEF, shall consider reviewing their capacity-building plans with a view to increasing such support on matters relating to DLDD;

(b) The secretariat is requested to make available information on any country Parties which need further capacity-building assistance according to the 2014 reporting, with a view to their being considered by bilateral donors and multilateral agencies within the framework of possible projects and programmes;

(c) The Convention's institutions shall include specific actions on DLDD capacity-building in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked the capacities required for effective implementation of the Convention.

Annex

[English only]

Tables and figures relating to the performance indicator under operational objective 4

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Table 1

Implementation of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Global)

Region	*On NCSA basis*	*Other methodologies and instruments*	*Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented*			
			2014–2015	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*	*No plan yet*
Africa	34	38	1	1	5	4
Asia	25	31	7	0	3	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	19	16	3	0	4	2
Northern Mediterranean	4	7	2	0	1	0
Central and Eastern Europe	12	10	0	0	0	1
Other action programmes	0	0	1	0	0	0
Global	**94**	**102**	**14**	**1**	**13**	**9**

Table 2

Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Global)

Region	*Yes*	*No*
Africa	40	13
Asia	36	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	18	13
Northern Mediterranean	5	7
Central and Eastern Europe	14	1
Other action programmes	0	1
Global	**113**	**46**

Table 3
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Global)

	Secretariat		*Global Mechanism*		*Global Environment Facility*		*Bilateral*		*Multilateral*		*Total (actual programme receiving support)*
Region	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	
Africa	14	26	22	26	39	11	25	13	26	22	**40**
Asia	10	9	13	9	28	10	19	11	16	14	**31**
Latin America and the Caribbean	4	9	6	7	18	5	6	4	7	8	**21**
Northern Mediterranean	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	**3**
Central and Eastern Europe	1	5	0	3	9	2	2	0	5	2	**11**
Global (total)	**29**	**50**	**41**	**45**	**95**	**28**	**52**	**28**	**55**	**48**	**106**

Figure 1
Financial assistance to capacity-building by institutions (global)

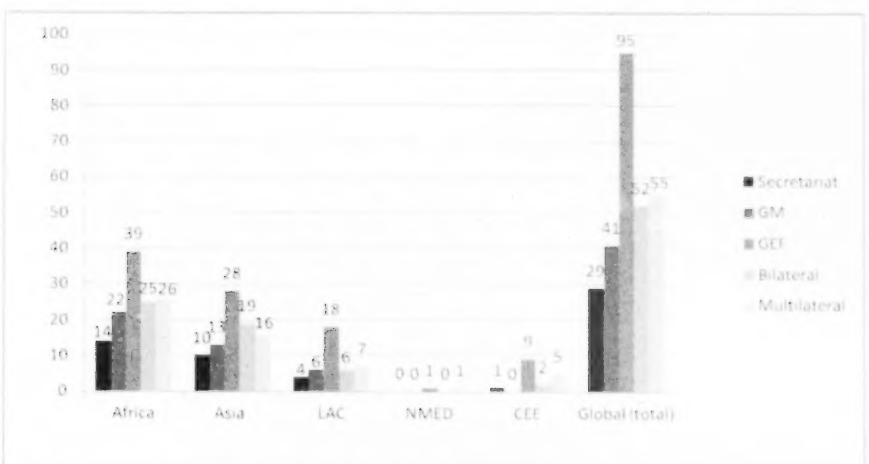

Figure 2
Technical assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Global)

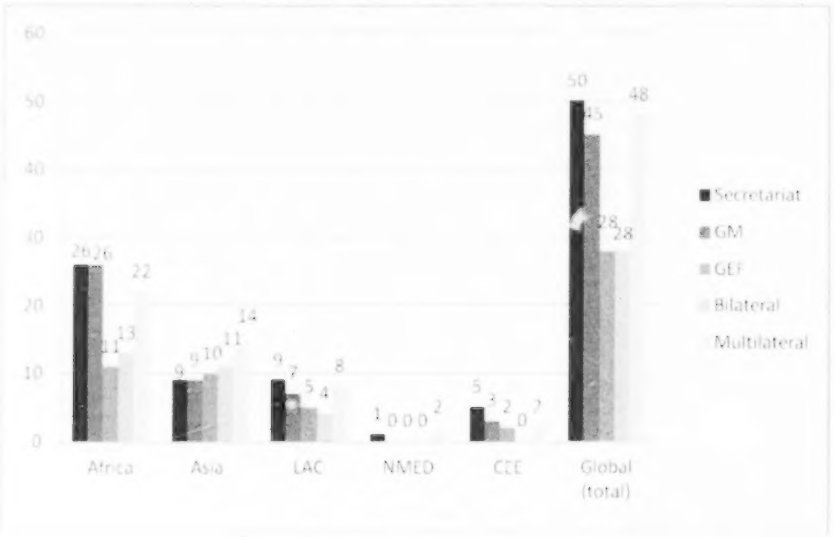

Table 4
Implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Africa)

			Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented			
Subregion	*On NCSA basis*	*Other methodologies and instruments*	*2014–2015*	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*	*No plan yet*
Central Africa	4	4	0	1	2	2
Eastern Africa	5	5	1	0	0	1
Northern Africa	4	4	0	0	2	0
Southern Africa	10	12	0	0	1	1
Western Africa	11	13	-	-	-	-
Africa (total)	**34**	**38**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**4**

Table 5
Implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Asia)

			Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented			
Subregion	*On NCSA basis*	*Other methodologies and instruments*	*2014–2015*	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*	*No plan yet*
Central Asia	5	5	-	-	-	-
East Asia	1	2	1	0	0	0
Pacific	9	7	2	0	0	1
South Asia	5	4	-	-	-	-
South East Asia	4	7	3	0	0	0
West Asia	1	6	1	0	3	1
Asia (total)	**25**	**31**	**7**	**0**	**3**	**2**

Table 6
Implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Latin America and the Caribbean)

			Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented			
Subregion	*On NCSA basis*	*Other methodologies and instruments*	*2014–2015*	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*	*No plan yet*
Andean	2	1	1	0	0	1
Caribbean	9	6	0	0	4	0
Mesoamerica	4	5	2	0	0	1
South Cone	4	4	-	-	-	-
LAC (total)	**19**	**16**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**2**

Table 7
Implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Northern Mediterranean)

			Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented			
Region	*On NCSA basis*	*Other methodologies and instruments*	*2014–2015*	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*	*No plan yet*
Northern Mediterranean (total)	**4**	**7**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Table 8
Implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects (Central and Eastern Europe)

Region	On NCSA basis	Other methodologies and instruments	Capacity-building plans, programmes and projects planned to be implemented			
			2014–2015	2016–2017	2018–2019	No plan yet
Central and Eastern Europe (total)	**12**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**

Table 9
Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Africa)

Subregion	Yes	No
Central Africa	7	3
Eastern Africa	6	2
Northern Africa	3	3
Southern Africa	12	2
Western Africa	12	3
Africa (total)	**40**	**13**

Table 10
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Africa)

Subregion	Secretariat		Global Mechanism		Global Environment Facility		Bilateral		Multilateral		Total action programmes receiving support
	Financial	Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial	Technical	
Central Africa	4	5	5	6	8	2	2	1	2	5	**8**
Eastern Africa	3	3	4	2	5	1	4	1	5	2	**5**
Northern Africa	1	1	1	1	4	0	3	0	2	0	**4**
Southern Africa	3	7	7	5	10	1	7	3	8	6	**10**
Western Africa	3	10	5	12	12	7	9	8	9	9	**13**
Africa (total)	**14**	**26**	**22**	**26**	**39**	**11**	**25**	**13**	**26**	**22**	**40**

Figure 3
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Africa)

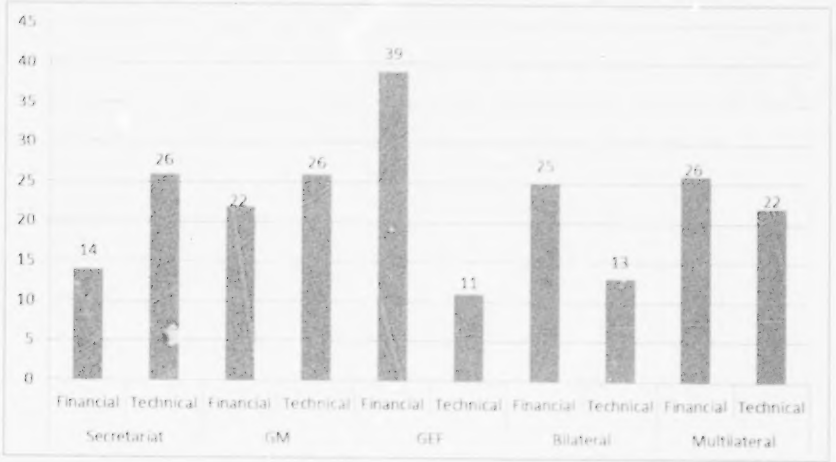

Figure 4
Financial assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Africa, subregion)

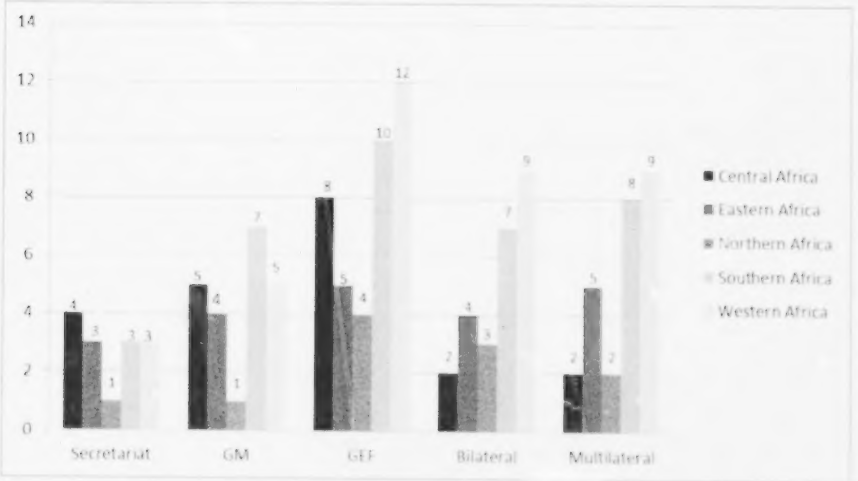

Figure 5
Technical assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Africa, subregion)

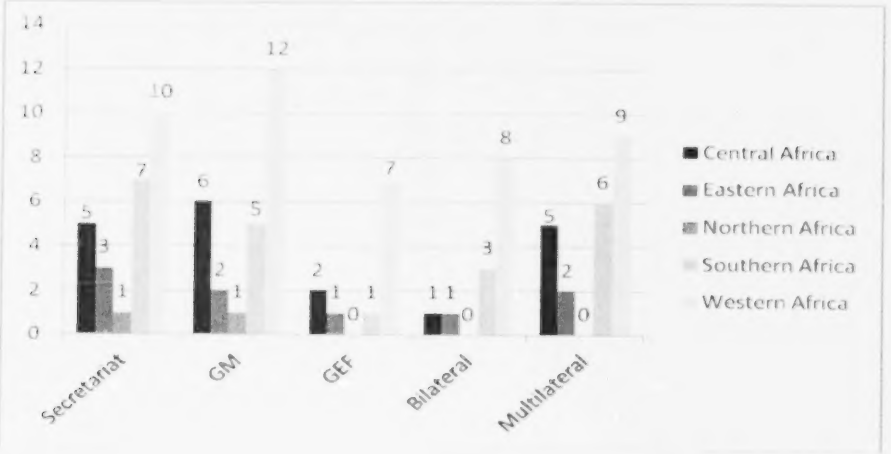

Table 11
Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Asia)

Subregion	*Yes*	*No*
Central Asia	5	0
East Asia	2	1
Pacific	10	2
South Asia	6	0
South East Asia	7	3
West Asia	6	5
Asia (total)	**36**	**11**

Table 12
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Asia)

Subregion	*Secretariat*		*Global Mechanism*		*Global Environment Facility*		*Bilateral*		*Multilateral*		*Total action programmes receiving support*
	Financial	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	
Central Asia	2	1	4	3	5	1	5	3	4	2	**5**
East Asia	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	**2**
Pacific	4	2	2	2	10	3	6	3	5	5	**10**
South Asia	1	0	3	0	4	1	3	1	2	1	**5**
South East Asia	2	3	3	3	5	2	2	2	3	2	**5**
West Asia	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	**4**
Asia (total)	**10**	**9**	**13**	**9**	**28**	**10**	**19**	**11**	**16**	**14**	**31**

Figure 6
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Asia)

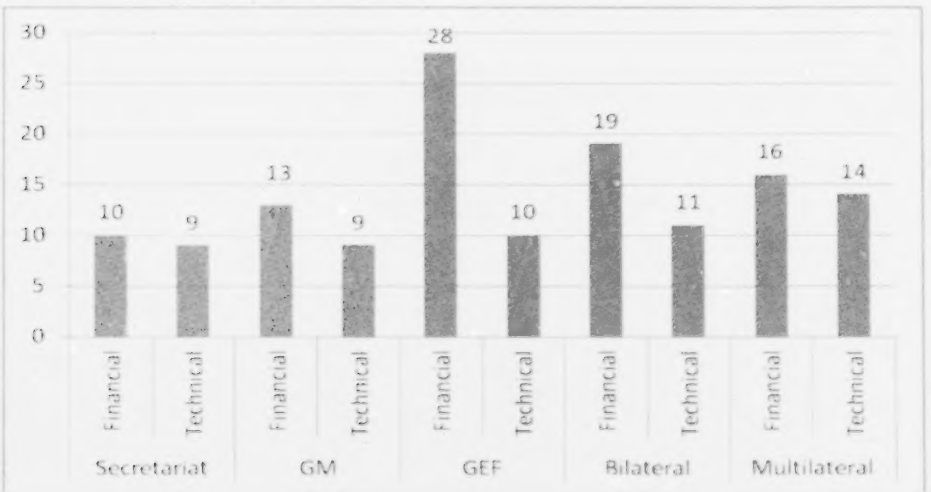

Figure 7

Financial assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Asia, subregion)

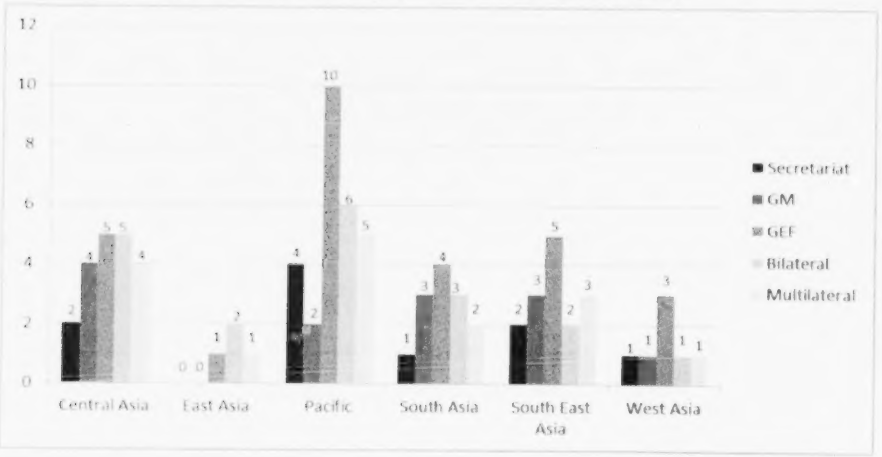

Figure 8

Technical assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Asia, subregion)

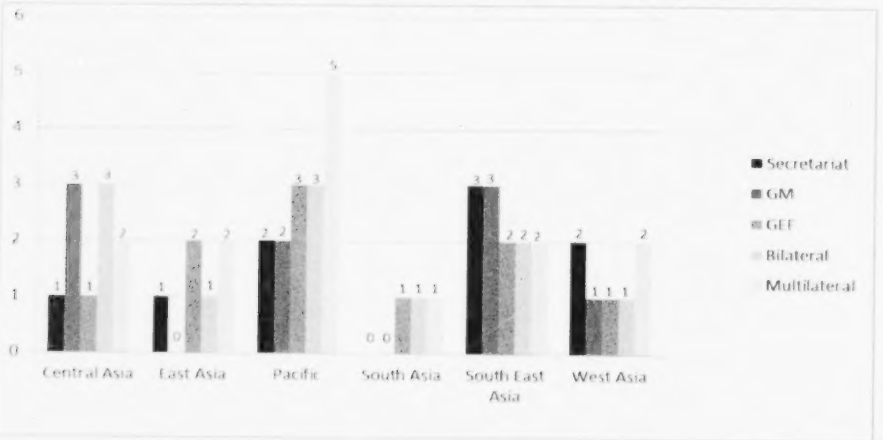

Table 13
Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Latin America and the Caribbean)

Subregion	*Yes*	*No*
Andean	3	1
Caribbean	8	6
Mesoamerica	3	5
South Cone	4	1
Latin America and the Caribbean (total)	**18**	**13**

Table 14
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Latin America and the Caribbean)

	Secretariat		*Global Mechanism*		*Global Environment Facility*		*Bilateral*		*Multilateral*		*Total action programmes receiving support*
Subregion	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	
Andean	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	**2**
Caribbean	2	4	1	2	10	2	2	1	2	3	**10**
Mesoamerica	1	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	**5**
South Cone	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	**4**
Latin America and the Caribbean (total)	**4**	**9**	**6**	**7**	**18**	**5**	**6**	**4**	**7**	**8**	**21**

Figure 9
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Latin America and the Caribbean)

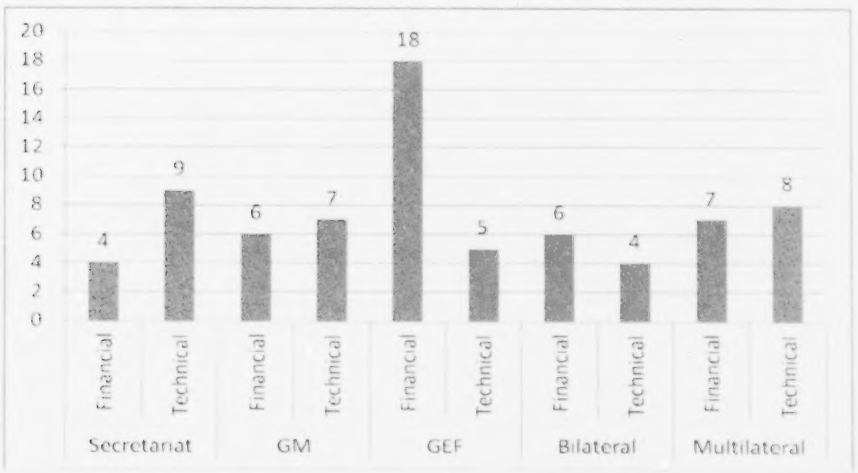

Figure 10

Financial assistance to capacity-building by institutions (Latin America and the Caribbean, subregion)

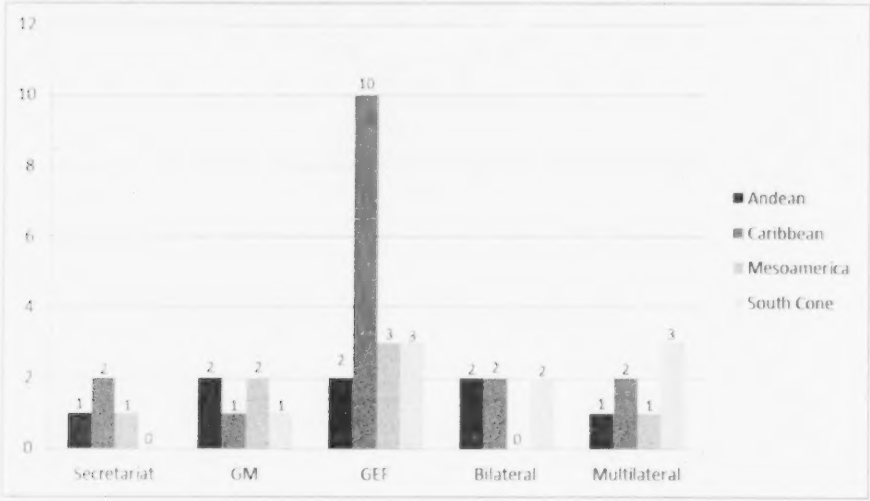

Figure 11

Technical assistance to capacity-buildir · by institutions (Latin America and the Caribbean, subregion)

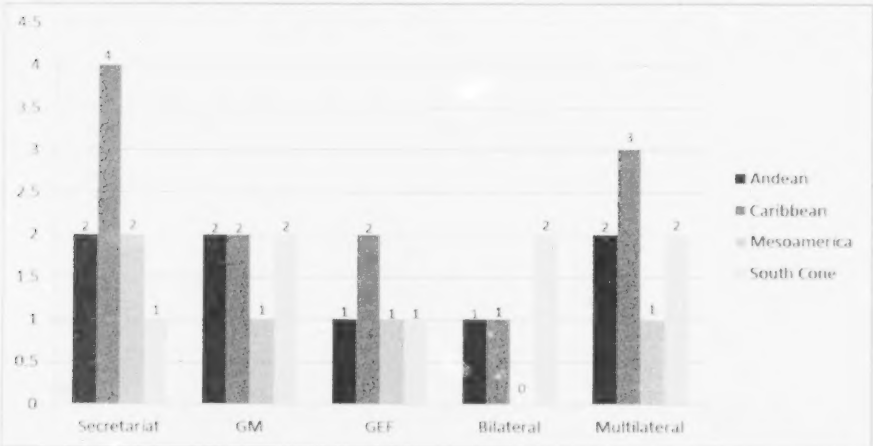

Table 15

Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Northern Mediterranean)

Region	*Yes*	*No*
Northern Mediterranean (total)	5	7

Table 16

Support to capacity-building by institutions (Northern Mediterranean)

	Secretariat		*Global Mechanism*		*Global Environment Facility*		*Bilateral*		*Multilateral*		*Total action programmes receiving support*
Region	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	
Northern Mediterranean (total)	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3

Figure 12

Support to capacity-building by institutions (Northern Mediterranean)

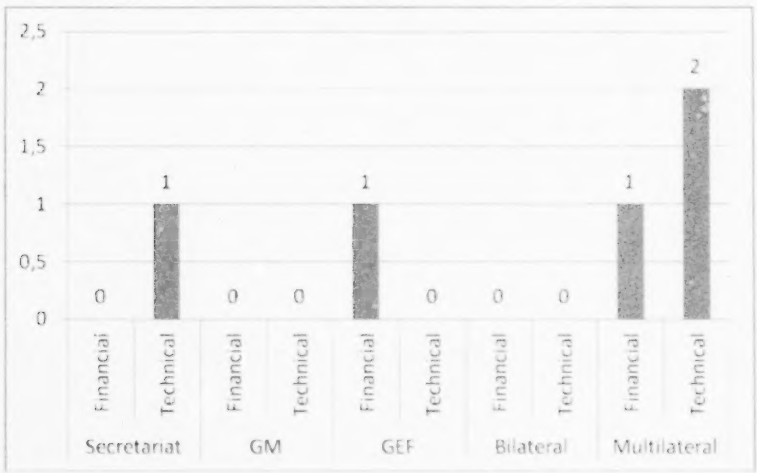

Table 17

Assessment of DLDD-related capacity-building needs (Central and Eastern Europe)

Region	*Yes*	*No*
Central and Eastern Europe (total)	14	1

Table 18
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Central and Eastern Europe)

	Secretariat		*Global Mechanism*		*Global Environment Facility*		*Bilateral*		*Multilateral*		*Total action programmes receiving support*
Region	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	*Financial*	*Technical*	
Central and Eastern Europe (total)	**1**	**5**	**0**	**3**	**9**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**5**	**2**	**11**

Figure 13
Support to capacity-building by institutions (Central and Eastern Europe)

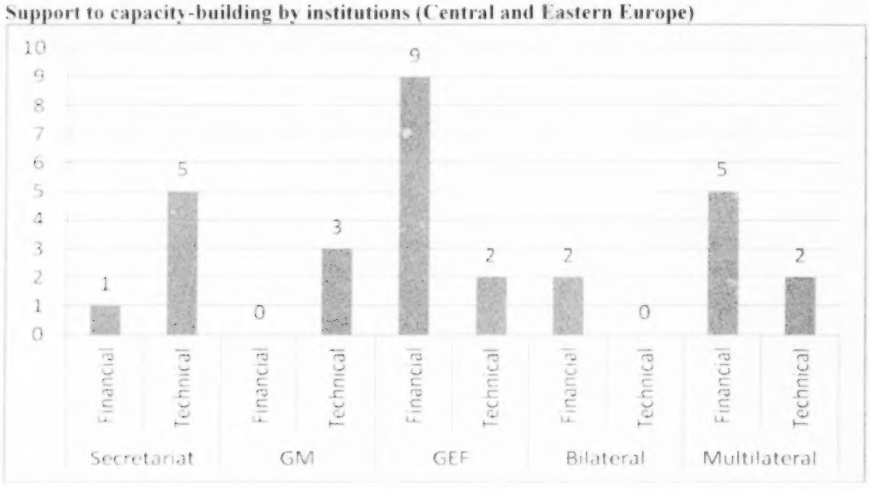

Table 19
Number of DLDD-related capacity-building initiatives supported by developed country Parties

	National Capacity Self-Assessment		*Other*	
	Yes	*No*	*Yes*	*No*
Developed country Parties (total)	**6**	**22**	**15**	**13**

Table 20

Geographic distribution of assistance provided by developed country Parties (DCPs) to DLDD-related capacity-building initiatives

Entity	*Entities supported (number of capacity-building initiatives)*			*Number of DCPs supporting capacity-building initiatives in affected countries*
	Country	*Subregion*	*Region/Global*	
Africa	**103**	**9**	**4**	**7**
Central Africa	15	2		4
Eastern Africa	8	1		2
Northern Africa	18	1		3
Southern Africa	13	1		4
Western Africa	49	4		4
Asia	**50**	**2**	**2**	**6**
Central Asia	4	1		4
East Asia	17	0		3
Pacific	0	0		0
South Asia	3	0		2
South East Asia	11	1		3
West Asia	14	0		4
Latin America and the Caribbean	**64**	**1**	**1**	**3**
Andean	14	1		3
Caribbean	9	0		2
Mesoamerica	23	0		2
South Cone	18	0		2
Northern Mediterranean	**0**	**n/a**	**1**	**0**
Central and Eastern Europe	**1**	**n/a**	**2**	**1**
Global			7	-
Total				**7 Global initiatives supported by 5 DCPs**
				10 regional initiatives in all 5 regions supported by 6 DCPs
				12 subregional initiatives in 8 subregions supported by 4 DCPs
				75 affected countries supported by 9 DCPs
				Total: 218 initiatives supported

In total, 17 DCPs provided support to capacity-building initiatives, six DCPs provided support to those based on NCSA, 15 DCPs provided support to those based on other methodologies. Three DCPs did not provide a list of beneficiaries.